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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,072	10/21/2003	Shoya Tanaka	723-1442	2818

27562 7590 02/01/2007
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ARLINGTON, VA 22203

EXAMINER

HARPER, TRAMAR YONG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/689,072	Applicant(s) TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Tramar Harper	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/29/04, 8/5/05, 1/31/06, 5/1/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagan et al (US 5,618,045) in view of Yasunari (JP 2001-168873).

Claims 1, 5, 6, & 7: Kagan discloses a wireless game system including at least two playing devices capable of communicating with each other via a network (Abstract). Each device comprises of a processor (includes memory) for controlling game play including network functionality (transmitter, receiver, etc.)(Col. 29-25). Each device further comprises a transmitter for transmitting transmission packets and a receiver for receiving said packets (Col. 3:54-64, Fig. 1). These packets includes identification data relative of the associated device (Col. 5:63-Col. 6:6). Each playing device can either function as the parent or child in the communication system (Col. 3:45-50). Kagan discloses that communication between each device can be accomplished by short-range radio communication, infrared communication, ultra-sonic communication, and the like, as known in the art (Col. 3:49-53). Kagan fails to disclose a means for restoring a connection within a parent/child system. Yasunari discloses a radio communications system that comprises of a parent/hub and child/leaf system, where a connection registration can be performed automatically (§ 4), even if connection is

altered due to reasons such as malfunction of radio link, etc (§ 44). Yasunari discloses that a parent/hub device broadcasts a cycle start packet (CSP) periodically to the leaf devices. The CSP includes information regarding slots already assigned and slots available within the network (§ 19-21). Yasunari discloses that the child/leaf device, which was already in a registration condition (connected state), judges whether or not the assigned slot (indicated by CSP) is not in a stable condition and if it isn't the transmitted synchronous packet is stopped or connection suspended. Then the child/leaf device automatically starts the synchronization process over (Fig. 3, § 34). If the leaf device determines that it cannot detect the CSP while in a registration condition, the process is started over to regain synchronization (Fig. 3, § 35). Yasunari discloses that such an automated connection system provides a stable communication system making plug and play possible (§ 4, 50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the wireless gaming system of Kagan with the automated wireless connection system of Yasunari for purposes of providing a more stable connection within the gaming environment amongst gaming devices. Such a modification would provide stability and ensure a more real time gaming environment.

Claim 2: Yasunari discloses that the parent broadcasts the connection to child after registration is complete (§ 29, 41).

Claim 3: Yasunari discloses that if the parent device does not receive a synchronous packet from a connected child device within a predetermined time while in a registered condition then connection is lost (§ 46) and the parent changes into condition 13. While in the same predetermined time if a registration demand packet is not received from

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said child then assigned slot is deleted or reassigned (§ 48). Furthermore, if the CSP cannot be received while in a registered condition with a predetermined time the child stops transmitting the synchronous packet, changes back to an initial condition, and reinitiates the synchronization process (§ 35). Also, Yasunari discloses that the parent judges if a child trying to reconnect (sending reg. demand packet) is a child in which registration has already been carried and if the condition is satisfied and the ID of the child is accurate then connection or registration is re-established (§ 39). As such, the predetermined time of the child to judge a connection lost has to be of lesser time than the time prior till the parent deleting or reassigning the available time slot.

Claim 4: Yasunari discloses that connection permitting data or CSP contains identifying time slots, where the parent is the first time slot and the child devices are the corresponding time slots (§ 19, Fig. 2).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tomizawa et al (US 6,500,070), Comas et al (US 5,738,583), Finn (US 6,354,946), Sonoda et al (US 6,165,068), Jeong et al (US 6,383,075), Kuwahara et al (US 2005/0181877), Shunji (JP 11-099144), Makoto (JP 2002-224449) and Naonori (JP 11-214862) disclose similarly structured wireless gaming systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamar Harper whose telephone number is (571) 272-6177. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TH

01/29/07

Handwritten signature of Robert Olszewski, dated 1/31/07.

ROBERT OLSZEWSKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700